

REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17, 20, and 22 are in the present application. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Changes to the claims as presented herein, are not submitted for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are submitted simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled. Claims 24 and 25 are canceled.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication by the Examiner that claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17, 20, and 22 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to provide sufficient antecedent basis for the limitation of “said image signal.” In response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 10, and 17 to provide sufficient antecedent basis for “an image signal.” Claims 24 and 25 have been canceled. Accordingly, Applicants believe all remaining claims are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 24 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lee (U.S. Patent 6,507,366). Claims 24 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being

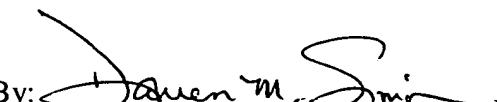
unpatentable over Aoyama et al. (U.S. Patent 5,364,270) in view of Lougheed et al. (U.S. Patent 5,686,690). Claims 24 and 25 have been canceled. Therefore, these rejections are moot.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

No additional fees are deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment, but if such are, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By: 
Darren M. Simon
Reg. No. 47,946
(212) 588-0800